

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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TAGS: PINT, PE
SUBJECT: PSR DIVIDES ON EVE OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

REF: LIMA 5342

SUMMARY: LEONIDAS RODRIGUEZ' "FIRST PHASE" PARTIDO SOCIALISTA REVOLUCIONARIO (PSR) HAS SPLIT INTO TWO FACTIONS DESCRIBED BY LOCAL PRESS AS INTELLECTUALS AND RETIRED MILITARY LEADERS ON THE ONE HAND, AND LEFTIST LABOR LEADERS AND MILITANTS ON THE OTHER. THE SPLIT DOES NOT POSE A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE PROBABLE PSR DELEGATES IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, BUT DEFINITELY BODES ILL FOR THE UNITY OF THE LEFTIST BLOC. END SUMMARY.

1. A SERIOUS SPLIT HAS OCCURRED IN THE RANKS OF THE PSR LED BY GEN. (R) LEONIDAS RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA, NOW IN EXILE. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERING VERSIONS AS TO WHO HAS EXPELLED WHOM, PSR (ESTIMATED TO HAVE CAPTURED LESS THAN SIX PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE IN THE JUNE 18 ELECTIONS - REFTEL) REPORTEDLY HAS DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS: THE INTELLECTUALS AND RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS LED (IN RODRIGUEZ' ABSENCE) BY DR. ANTONIO MEZA CUADRA VELAZQUEZ (NO. 2 ON THE LIST INCLUDING SOME LABOR LEADERS HEADED BY ANTONIO ARAGON GALLEGOS (NO. 4), A TROTSKYITE LEADER OF LIMA'S VILLA ES SALVADOR SLUM TOWN. BOTH GROUPS ALLEGE LOYALTY

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TO RODRIGUEZ.

2. ARAGON, NOW THE SELF-PROCLAIMED SEC GEN OF PSR'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 5 THAT MEZA CUADRA, RAFAEL RONCAGLIO (NO. 6) AND ALFREDO FILOMENO (NO. 8) HAVE BEEN RELIEVED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES BUT NOT EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY. AMONG ARAGON'S SUPPORTERS IN THIS ATTEMPT TO

TAKE OVER THE PARTY, THE MOST IMPORTANT APPEAR TO BE CARLOS URRUTIA (NO. 10 - STYLED AS PSR'S NEW POLITICAL SECRETARY), HECTOR MINGUILLO (NO. 7), JOSE MARIA SALAZAR (NO. 14) AND JOSE FERNANDEZ SALVATECCI (NO. 19).

3. OTHER PRESS VERSIONS OF THE SPLIT REPORT THAT MEZA CUADRA HAS EXPELLED THE EIGHT REBELS FOR DIVIDING THE PARTY AND DEFAMING PSR LEADER RODRIGUEZ.

4. COMMENT. MANY OBSERVERS HAVE ATTRIBUTED THE PSR'S POOR SHOWING IN THE ELECTIONS OT THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE OF THE PRESENCE OF "FIRST PHASE" INTELLECTUALS AND RETIRED MILITARY ON THE PARTY'S SLATE OF CANDIDATES. AS FINAL ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE PROVINCE OF LIMA SHOW (SEPTTEL), HOWEVER, THE LARGEST PREFERENTIAL VOTES WENT TO PRECISELY THESE CANDIDATES. ASSUMING THAT PSR HAS FIVE SEATS IN THE ASSEMBLY, BASED ON THE LIMA STATISTICS, THEY WILL BE FILLED BY RODRIGUEZ (93,106 VOTES), MEZA CUADRA (6,488), MIGUEL ECHANDIA URBINA (2,433), AVELINO MAR (2,375) AND ALBERTO RUIZ ELDRIDGE (1,407). OF THESE ONLY ECHANDIA AND MAR (SECGEN OF THE SEAMEN'S UNION AND THE DEPOSED HEAD OF THE RECENTLY DISSOLVED PEASANTS CONFEDERATION, CNA, RESPECTIVELY) ARE LABOR OR PEASANT LEADERS. THE LEADER OF THE PSR REBELS, ARAGON, PLACES SIXTH IN THE PREFERENTIAL VOTE FOR LIMA WITH 1,088 VOTES. THE TOTAL VOTE FOR ALL EIGHT OF HIS SUPPORTERS IS ONLY 1,701. THE FUNDAMENTAL REASONS FOR THE SPLIT ARE UNCLEAR. THE FACT THAT IT OCCURRED JUST AS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FINAL RESULTS OF THE PREFERENTIAL VOTE FOR LIMA WERE BECOMING KNOWN SUGGESTS THAT THE "REBELS" MAY BE TRYING TO DISQUALIFY PARTY LEADERS IN THE EYES OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION. WE DO NOT EXPECT THIS SCHISM TO AFFECT THE PSR'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ASSEMBLY, ALTHOUGH THIS SPLIT AND ANOTHER RUMORED DIVISION IN FOCEP CERTAINLY BODE ILL FOR ATTEMPTS TO UNITE THE LEFTIST BLOC. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT PEASANT LEADER AVELINO MAR AND "FIRST PHASE" INTELLECTUAL ALBERTO RUIZ ELDREDGE, BOTH VIRTUALLY ASSURED OF SEATS IN THE ASSEMBLY, HAVE NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THE PRESENT DISPUTE. THE ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN MEZA CUADRA AND HIS ONE TIME PROTEGE CARLOS URRUTIA, IS ALSO WORTHY OF NOTE.

DECON 1/6/79.
SHLAUDEMAM

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